

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 622

By Durham

A RESOLUTION recognizing Westbrook Farm, a Tennessee
Century Farm.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should honor and recognize those exceptional farming families who, through their dedication to the ancient and esteemed traditions of agriculture, have made significant contributions to their respective communities and to this State; and

WHEREAS, the Short family of Williamson County certainly rank among those estimable Tennessee farming families; Westbrook Farm, owned and operated by the family since 1887, has been designated a Tennessee Century Farm in recognition of its long and illustrious history; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Century Farms Program recognizes those families who have owned and farmed the same land for over a century, and also documents and interprets the State's history and culture of farming; and

WHEREAS, located three miles west of Franklin, Westbrook Farm was established by Jesse Armistead Short and Benjamin Franklin Short in 1887; the 194-acre farm produced wheat, oats, barley, corn, cattle, and other livestock; and

WHEREAS, of the two founding brothers, Jesse never married; Benjamin married Frances Tennessee Boyd, and the couple had one son, Jesse Edelin Short, Sr., who became the next owner of the farm; and

WHEREAS, under Jesse Edelin's ownership, the farm produced row crops of grain and corn, and raised cattle, pigs, and Karakul sheep; and

WHEREAS, Jesse Edelin was the only owner of Karakul sheep in the state; he "took pride in educating others about the attributes of the breed"; and

WHEREAS, Jesse Edelin Short, was married to Lucile Corrine Cotton Short, and the couple had three children; and

WHEREAS, the next owner of the farm, Jesse Edelin Short's son, Jesse E. Short, Jr., was married to Alma Carter Bennett Short and had four children; and

WHEREAS, under their ownership in 1963, Westbrook Farm was developed into a grade A dairy farm by Jesse E. Short, Jr. and his son Jesse E. Short, III; and

WHEREAS, in 1963 Jesse E. Short, Jr.'s children and grandchildren acquired the farm, and continued to operate it as a dairy farm until 1994 when the business became unprofitable; and

WHEREAS, today, with the help of a neighbor, Jimmy Jewell, the farm produces soybeans, corn, wheat, and tobacco; a smokehouse, wash house, and granary still stand on the property; and

WHEREAS, the success of the State, the strength of its communities, and the overall vitality of our society depend, in great measure, on the dedication of people such as the members of the Short family, who have demonstrated a deep respect for tradition and hard work and a love for the land; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate owners Jesse E. Short III, Mary Anne Short Warren, William Miller Short, Susan Short, Kathy Short Simpson, and James B. Short, whose Westbrook Farm has been designated a Tennessee Century Farm, commend the family for their dedication to agriculture, and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.